

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

April 16, 1996

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is the second edition of the newsletter established in the fall of 1995, which is meant to serve as a way of spreading information and encouraging interaction among graduate students, in all three of our programs (M.A. History and Philosophy of Religion, M.A. Judaic Studies, and Ph.D. Religion), and between graduate students and faculty members in the Department of Religion. Contributors to and editors of this issue of the newsletter are Steven Engler, Ruth Mas, Leslie Orr, Chandra Rice, and Sonia Zylberberg. If you would like to be involved in the production of this newsletter, or if you can provide any interesting information for the next edition of this newsletter (fall 1996)--upcoming events, opportunities, or the whereabouts and activities of yourself or other grad students--just drop a note addressed to Leslie Orr, or to Chandra Rice in the graduate student mailbox.

With the fall newsletter, you will receive a listing of all graduate students, including a summary of their academic interests, thesis topics, etc. If you have not been contacted recently by one of the contributors to this newsletter, asking you to provide information about these matters, please forward this information to Leslie Orr or Chandra Rice.

E-MAIL DIRECTORY

With this newsletter, you will be mailed a copy of the e-mail directory for graduate students and faculty in the Department of Religion. If you are not on this list, and would like to be, give your e-mail address to Leslie Orr for inclusion in an updated list. If you do not have a computer account at Concordia--get one!

RESOURCES

JOBS. With a degree in Religion or Judaic Studies, it is actually possible to find gainful employment. The Department of Religion has a subscription to the newsletter "Openings"--which is a listing of positions for people like you put out by the American Academy of Religion. You can consult "Openings" in the Department office. Even if you are not quite ready to join the job market, you might be interested to see what kinds of positions there are. Also, you should regularly check the graduate student notice board, where notices of various opportunities--jobs, fellowships, calls for papers, etc.--are posted. The graduate student notice board is in the long hallway in 2050 Mackay.

MONEY. If you travel to a conference to deliver a paper, you can apply to the Graduate Students Association for partial reimbursement of your expenses. The deadline is May 1st.

BOOKS. In connection with the appointment of Professor T.S. Rukmani as the Chair in Hindu Studies, the Concordia University Library has been allocated special funds by the Shastri Indo-

Canadian Institute in order to acquire books in the area of Indian philosophy. These will supplement the recent acquisition by Concordia's Library of over 500 volumes on Indian philosophy, religion, folklore, history, and art from the National Library of Canada.

UPCOMING EVENTS, CALLS FOR PAPERS, ETC.

"A Chorus of Voices" is an all-day colloquium on April 30, with paper presentations by graduate students in the Department of Religion. See the enclosed announcement of this fabulous event.

The Journal of Religion and Culture has an issue coming out in mid-May, under the editorship of Bill Thomas and Deidre Butler, with contributions from a number of graduate students. For the November issue, Deidre Butler will take over as editor, and the deadline for submission of papers for consideration for this issue will be in the beginning of October. Please think about whether you have written a paper for a class or a presentation that you might want to submit. The Journal is an excellent place for you to publish your work. And whether you are a contributor or not--you should subscribe! Copies of the Fall/Winter 1995 Journal--with articles by Faye Wakeling, Phil Moscovitch, Bill Thomas, Lynken Ghose, and Jeff Sims--are still available.

On June 9-10, the Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies of Concordia University and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University will host a major conference at Concordia entitled "A Heritage in Transition: Jewish Studies in Canada." The conference will feature presentations by Canadian scholars representative of the most recent research and methodologies in the areas which form the field of Jewish Studies. This conference is open to the public.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Jane Greening, who is graduating as an undergraduate student in Religion, received a J.W. McConnell Memorial Graduate Fellowship for her M.A. studies starting this fall in the Department of Religion.

Maria Mamfredis is the recipient of an FCAR fellowship for her doctoral studies.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students graduating this spring from the Department's graduate programs include: Savithri de Turreil (Ph.D.), Bassem Khalifah (Ph.D.), Deidre Butler (M.A. H&P), Frances Dalton-Rheaume (M.A. H&P), Patrick Darkhor (M.A. H&P), Michael Gisser (M.A. Judaic Studies), Walter Krajewski (M.A. H&P), Ruth Mas (M.A. H&P), and Brahm Silver (M.A. Judaic Studies). Savithri de Turreil's thesis was entitled "Nayars in a South Indian Matrix: A Study Based on Female-centred Ritual." Bassem Khalifah's thesis was on "The Rise and Fall of Christian Lebanon." The M.A. theses produced by our students were: Frances Dalton-Rheaume's "Aimee Semple McPherson: The Forgotten Evangelist"; Patrick Darkhor's "Zarathushtra's Concept of Ahura Mazda: A Study of the Gathic Texts"; and Walter Krajewski's "Voice from the Dust: A Literary Analysis of the Book of Mormon." Deidre Butler has entered the Ph.D. program in the Department of Religion, and has begun work on the subject of her doctoral thesis--a feminist critique of Levinas' ethics. Walter Krajewski is a full-time teacher in the English Department at Dawson College. Ruth Mas is going to the University of Toronto in the fall to continue her graduate work, as a Ph.D. student. Benny Neim,

a recent graduate from the M.A. program is pursuing doctoral studies in Israel.

A former graduate student, Simcha Paull Raphael, has recently published "Jewish Views of the Afterlife."

Various of the Department's current graduate students have been active in conferences and workshops, and in publishing and presenting papers. In October, Faye Wakeling was one of the invited participants in a panel at McGill University "After the U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing: Reflections and Future Directions." Khaleel Mohammed was invited by Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, to give a lecture on "Towards a new Islamwissenschaft" in February. David Oliver presented a paper entitled "A Canadian Perspective on Theological Education" at an international conference on Francophone Anglicans. Carlton Harvey has published an article on Maimonides, entitled "Degrees of Charity and Ministries of Compassion." Three Concordia graduate students presented papers at the Eastern International Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion this month in Syracuse: Srdjan Gligoric presented a paper entitled "Reform in the Pagan Servitude of the Church," Chandra Rice gave a paper on medieval Japanese narrative literature, and Phil Moscovitch presented a paper on ideas of childhood in Hindu Dharmasastra literature.

Nusia Matura is one of the organizers of the 20th anniversary conference of L'autre Parole, which is taking place May 17-19 at Mont-Orford; she is also acting as the animator of a workshop at this conference on "Reappropriation feministe du rapport a Dieu."

At the forthcoming CSSR meeting at the Learned Society Meetings at Brock University, Savithri de Turreil will be presenting a paper on "Women and 'Modernity' in South Asia" and Lesley MacGregor (a former Concordia student) a paper on "Swami Vivekananda: Advaita Vedanta as the 'Scientific Religion'," at a panel organized by Professor David Miller. At the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November, Steven Engler will be presenting a paper entitled "'All Men's Money': Almsgiving and Social Boundaries in Early Modern England."

A number of graduate students are involved in teaching. This year, Paul Hammett is a full-time teacher in Cornwall. Nusia Matura has given several classes at the Thomas More Institute. Margaret Million has led training sessions and retreats for elementary school pastoral animators at the Cursillo Leader's School. Patricia O'Rourke is part of a team led by Dan Cere giving a course on "Frontiers of Faith" at the Newman Institute of Catholic Studies. Maria Mamfredis has been giving a course on the Dead Sea Scrolls at Sher Zion Synagogue, and will be giving another course, on the Book of Ruth, starting in May. Rikee Madoff has been giving monthly public lectures on Judaism for Jewish Women International.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The Department of Religion's Professor Emeritus, Charles Davis has been honoured with the publication of The Promise of Critical Theology: Essays in Honour of Charles Davis, edited by Marc P. Lalonde. This volume contains contributions by, among others, former students and faculty members of the Department, including Marc Lalonde, Daniel Cere, and Michael Oppenheim.

On April 18, Professor T.S. Rukmani presented her inaugural lecture as Chair of Hindu Studies, "Let's Talk About Hinduism." In addition to producing a series of recent publications, including contributions to the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies and the Encyclopedia of Hinduism, Professor Rukmani has been active as a member of the advisory board for the Tenth World Sanskrit Conference, the editor of the Journal of the Indological Society of South Africa, and a lecturer. She recently gave a public lecture on the topic of "Gandhi and Women" as part of the Lonergan College

seminar series on Gandhi organized by Professor Sheila McDonough. Professor David Miller has recently contributed articles on "Modernity in Hindu Monasticism" to the International Journal of Comparative Religion and Philosophy, and on "The Chariot and the Phallus in the Temple Architecture of Orissa" to the Journal of Vaisnava Studies. Among Leslie Orr's recent and forthcoming publications are "Women in the Temple, the Palace, and the Family: The Construction of Women's Identities in Pre-colonial Tamilnadu" (in a festschrift volume for Prof. Noboru Karashima), "Jain Worship in Medieval Tamilnadu" (in Approaches to Jaina Studies, University of Toronto), and "The Vaisnava Community at Srirangam in the Early Medieval Period" (in the Journal of Vaisnava Studies).

Professor Norma Baumel Joseph has been extremely active as a lecturer in the last several months, having been invited to give the Craigie Memorial Lecture at the University of Calgary, the Rosen Lecture at Queens University, and the keynote speech at the Jewish Feminist Conference in Toronto. Her topics for these lectures were "Women Reading Biblical Women," "Self Identities and Modern Jewish Feminism" and "Zakhor: Gender, Ritual, and Memory." Among Professor Joseph's recent and forthcoming publications are articles on "Jewish Education for Women" (in the journal American Jewish History) and "Rabbi Moses Feinstein" (in American National Biography, Oxford University Press). Michael Oppenheim's book, Speaking/ Writing of God: Philosophical Investigations of the Life with Others will be published by SUNY Press. Other recent or forthcoming publications include "The Philosophical Foundations for Pluralism in the Works of Charles Davis and Emmanuel Levinas" in The Promise of Critical Theology and "Feminist Judaism, Philosophy, and Religious Pluralism" in Modern Judaism. Ira Robinson, in addition to his contribution to and editorship of the book Renewing Our Days: Montreal Jews in the Twentieth Century, has recently published articles on "The Invention of American Jewish History" (in the journal American Jewish History) and "The Zaddik as Hero in Hasidic Hagiography" (in Crisis and Reaction: The Hero in Jewish History).

Professor Rosemary Drage-Hale's book, Cloistered Women: Fourteenth-Century Convent Literature, is soon to be published in the Pegasus Library of Medieval Women. Professor Hale has contributed an essay on "Joseph as Mother: Adaptation and Appropriation of Marian Imagery" to the forthcoming Medieval Mothering, Feminae Medievalia 4 (University of Toronto Press), and is the co-editor of a volume entitled Models of Holiness: Paradigms of Virtue in Medieval Sermons. In addition to his book, Reading an Erased Code, Michel Despland has recently produced articles on "Emerson" for the Encyclopedie du protestantisme and on "Des sciences aux sciences religieuses: le programme d'A.-M. Ampère 1834-43" for the Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuse. He is also a member of the Committee for the Evaluation of Human Sciences which has been established for the evaluation of Quebec's CEGEPs. Professor Frederick Bird's book, The Muted Conscience: Moral Silence and the Practice of Ethics in Business will be published in September 1996 by Greenwood Press. A contribution on "Moral Universals as Cultural Realities" to a volume entitled Ethical Universals in International Business (ed. N. Brady and P. Koslowski) will also be appearing later this year. In March 1996, Professor Bird delivered the Sproule Lectures at McGill University on the topic of "The Civic Mandate: The Public Responsibilities of Business."